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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Masanori Itoh

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EXAMINER

PARK, CHAN S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/08/2009

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/804,000	Applicant(s) ITOH ET AL.	
	Examiner CHAN S. PARK	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 October 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 and 25-101 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 25-101 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment was received on 10/16/08, and has been entered and made of record. Currently, **claims 1-23 and 25-101** are pending. Of the above claims 25-101 are withdrawn from consideration.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to **claims 1-23** have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Objections

3. Claims are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claims 2-13, line 1, "The apparatus as claimed" should be -- The server apparatus as claimed --;

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States

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only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 8-12, 14 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohta U.S. Patent No. 7,130,068.

With respect to claim 1, Ohta discloses a server apparatus (server 101 in fig. 1), comprising:

a first sharing unit that shares a print environment thereof with other apparatuses on a network (server sharing the print network with other clients 102~104 in fig. 1), wherein the first sharing unit includes

a connection management unit that manages (note that the CPU of the server must manage the connection/disconnection with other network devices in order to ensure to the data transmission) the connecting of the first sharing unit to a second sharing unit of a second server apparatus (client 501 in fig. 6 is construed as a second server since it facilitates the printing process from one device to another & refer to col. 6, lines 60-64) on the network, the network including at least one print server (other clients) and at least one printer (printer 105) in addition to the second server apparatus (fig. 1 & also note that since the network is not a part of the claimed server, no patentable weight is given to the underlined portion); and

a transfer unit that transfers at least one of information of a print reservation and a document related to the print reservation to the second sharing unit of the second server apparatus (col. 9, lines 22-36 & lines 54-60).

With respect to claim 8, Ohta discloses the server apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising: a reservation data storage unit that stores the reservation information and the document (storing the document in the server in col. 9, lines 32-36).

With respect to claim 9, Ohta discloses the server apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising: a document acquisition unit that acquires the document (acquiring the document from the client in col. 9, lines 32-36).

With respect to claim 10, Ohta discloses the server apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising: a document management service unit that provides a service for managing the document (managing the print jobs in col. 8, lines 55-67).

With respect to claim 11, Ohta discloses the server apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising: a document storage unit that stores the document (storing the document in the server in col. 9, lines 32-36).

With respect to claim 12, Ohta discloses the server apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising: a print service unit that provides service related to printing (facilitating the re-print process in col. 7, lines 38-49).

With respect to claim 14, Ohta teaches a method of providing a sharing service in which a first sharing unit shares a print environment thereof with a second sharing unit (server sharing the print network with other clients 102~104 in fig. 1), the first and second sharing units being provided in respective servers on a network (client 501 in fig. 6 is construed as a second server since it facilitates the printing process from one device to another), the network including at least one print server and at least one printer (fig. 1 & also note that since the network is not a part of the claimed method, no

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patentable weight is given to the underlined portion), the method comprising the steps of:

managing the connecting and the disconnecting of the second sharing unit (note that the CPU of the server must manage the connection/disconnection with other network devices in order to ensure to the data transmission); and

transferring, over the network, at least one of information of a print reservation and a document related to the print reservation to the second sharing unit.

With respect to claim 19, Ohta discloses a computer-readable medium storing a computer program that, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to share a print environment thereof with a second computer (server sharing the print network with other clients 102~104 in fig. 1), by executing the steps of:

managing connecting and disconnecting of the second computer with the computer (note that the server must manage the connection/disconnection with other network devices in order to ensure to the data transmission), the computer and the second computer being arranged on a network (client 501 in fig. 6 is construed as a second server since it facilitates the printing process from one device to another), the network including at least one print server and at least one printer (fig. 1 & also note that since the network is not a part of the claimed computer medium, no patentable weight is given to the underlined portion); and

transferring, over the network, at least one of information of a print reservation and a document related to the print reservation to the second computer (col. 9, lines 22-36 & lines 54-60).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2, 3 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohta as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Goodman et al. U.S. Patent No. 7,130,921 (hereinafter Goodman).

With respect to claims 2 and 3, Ohta discloses the server apparatus as claimed in claim 1, but it does not explicitly disclose that the connection management unit adds or deletes connection data related to or from the second sharing unit to service data indicating other sharing units in the network that are connected to the first sharing unit, in response to a connection/disconnection request from the second sharing unit.

Goodman, the same field of endeavor of the network server managing the plurality of clients in the network, discloses server having a connection management unit which adds or deletes connection data related to or from the second sharing unit to service data indicating other sharing units in the network that are connected to the first sharing unit, in response to a connection/disconnection request from the second sharing unit (upon receiving a connect signal the server adds the client address to the connected client list in col. 8, lines 31-34. Also, the server, according to Goodman deletes the client address upon receiving the disconnect signal from the client in col. 9,

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lines 31-33). Thus, the server maintains the most recent connected client list (service data) based on the connect/disconnect signal from each client in the network.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the server of Ohta to include the unit for maintaining the connected client list as taught by Goodman.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to facilitate the data transfer between one client to another by accessing the network server (col. 2, lines 1-6 of Goodman).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ohta with Goodman to obtain the invention as specified in claims 2 and 3.

With respect to claim 5, the combination discloses the server apparatus as claimed in claim 2, further comprising: a service data storage unit that stores the service data (storage for storing the list in col. 8, lines 31-34 of Goodman).

With respect to claim 6, the combination discloses the server apparatus as claimed in claim 2, further comprising: an acquisition unit that acquires the service data from the second sharing unit (receiving the IP address of the client in col. 8, lines 31-34).

With respect to claim 7, Ohta discloses the server apparatus as claimed in claim 1, but it does not explicitly disclose a consistency check unit that checks consistency of a connection state in which the second sharing unit is connected to the first sharing unit and a disconnection state in which the second sharing unit is disconnected from the first sharing unit.

Goodman, the same field of endeavor of the network server managing the plurality of clients in the network, discloses server having a consistency check unit for checking consistency of a connection/disconnection state in which the clients are connected to the server (col. 8, lines 41-57).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the server of Ohta to include the consistency check unit as taught by Goodman.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to ensure that the network clients are connected to the server for proper network transmission.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ohta with Goodman to obtain the invention as specified in claim 7.

6. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Ohta and Goodman as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Rosenzweig et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,915,096 (hereinafter Rosenzweig).

With respect to claim 4, the combination teaches the apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the connection data related to the second sharing unit added to the service data are managed as one of upper level data, same level data, and lower level data, which indicates a hierarchical relationship between the first sharing unit and the second sharing unit within the network.

Rosenzweig teaches the method of exchanging messages indicating its hierarchical level within the network with other devices, including servers and clients (col. 5, lines 50-64 & col. 10, lines 4-22).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the server of Ohta to include the means for generating the hierarchical level of connected clients/servers in the network as taught by Rosenzweig.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide more efficient communication network system by informing its hierarchical level and by maintaining the hierarchical list.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine three references to obtain the invention as specified in claim 4.

7. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Ohta as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Cantwell U.S. Patent No. 6,542,892.

With respect to claim 13, the combination discloses the apparatus as claimed in claim 1, but it does not explicitly disclose a print unit that prints the document.

Cantwell, the same field of endeavor of the network printing art, discloses a server having an embedded printer for printing documents (col. 2, lines 20-24).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the server of Ohta to include the printer for printing the document as taught by Cantwell.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide a server for printing the document locally.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ohta with Cantwell to obtain the invention as specified in claim 13.

8. Claims 15, 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohta as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Goodman.

With respect to claims 15 and 16, arguments analogous to those presented for claims 2 and 3, are applicable.

With respect to claim 18, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 7, are applicable.

9. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Ohta and Goodman as applied to claim 15 above, and further in view of Rosenzweig.

With respect to claim 17, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 4, are applicable.

10. Claims 20, 21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohta as applied to claim 19 above, and further in view of Goodman.

With respect to claims 20 and 21, arguments analogous to those presented for claims 2 and 3, are applicable.

With respect to claim 23, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 7, are applicable.

11. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Ohta and Goodman as applied to claim 15 above, and further in view of Rosenzweig.

With respect to claim 22, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 4, are applicable.

Conclusion

12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHAN S. PARK whose telephone number is (571)272-7409. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/CHAN S PARK/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

January 2, 2009